



Reported for the Farmer.
FARMERS' MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE
THURSDAY EVENING, Jan. 24, 1856.

Mr. Butman in the chair. He stated that the subject of discussion for this evening was to have been the composting of manure, but, as some persons were absent who were expected to take part in discussing that subject, he would submit to the direction of the meeting in regard to the propriety of taking it up now.

Mr. Gilman remarked that it would be well to postpone remarks upon composts for this evening. He had heard various reports in regard to the soil and climate of the Aroostook region, and its adaptation to agricultural pursuits. He would like to hear Mr. J. W. Haines, who had resided there several years, speak in regard to the country. He asked him what time the farmers in his neighborhood commenced farming operations?

Mr. Haines said that they generally commence sowing about the 10th of May. Snow falls so early that the earth does not freeze, and as soon as it is off the ground is ready to be ploughed. One year since he has been there, on the last day of April he dug down through the snow to some turnips that had been left in the ground in the fall, found them green, and on the first Monday of May following he sowed that same piece to wheat, and had 33 bushels of wheat to the acre.

The first snow this year fell on Thanksgiving day, and this has laid on until now. Much has been said about our winter in Aroostook being long, and of the difficulty of raising cattle among us on that account,—has raised cattle in Kennebec, and in Aroostook; finds that he can raise cattle as well there as in Kennebec, because the pasture commences as soon as the snow is off. We sometimes have slight frosts in August, especially on some low lands, never has suffered more by frost than he while living in Hallowell, does not raise much Indian corn. The principal crops are, wheat, oats, barley, rye, potatoes and other roots, and buckwheat,—never have any frosts in spring to hurt crops. Potatoes are abundant, gets from 3 to 400 bushels to the acre; his farm is a yellow loam, the stones are of a slate variety, with limestone. There is much slate ledge, and stratified lime stone, lime is burnt on his plantation equal to that of Thomas.

It is a country for hay. Just over the boundary line at Tobique is a mountain of gypsum, which is fit to all wish to supply themselves,—last winter 2 or 3000 loads were carried away, some of it to the distance of 40 miles, it is very soft and easily ground. Thinks a ton of hay can be raised cheaper in Aroostook than in any part of the State. Land is cheaper. On 17 acres which cost him \$15, per acre, to clear, and first year sowed to wheat and oats, the wheat paid him \$28, next year sowed \$10 per acre, next year with a crop of clover seed, netted \$15 per acre, and on casting up the net income on other crops, it amounted to \$72 per acre in seven years.

This land would bring \$15 per acre, although wild land is only 50 cts. per acre, so that one acre of this is worth 30 of wild land,—has tried winter wheat but it does not yield with me so much as spring wheat. By sowing winter wheat on 1st week in October, it is better than if sowed earlier: raises turnips (Ruta Baga) easily, and often raise 800 bushels to the acre with very little labor.

By sowing them broadcast they grow well and are easier gathered. Considers the wheat crop best after ruta baga, never saw any difference in grass crops when laid down after ruta baga, finds that some think that people are starving in Aroostook. But he knows many families who a few years ago went there very poor, who now have farms of 100 acres cleared, and 20 or more head of cattle.

He has cleared up 200 acres of land, built two mills, three houses and two barns; one of his sons carries on the business with him. They this year will sell \$2000 worth of farm produce, sold \$500 of cattle this year, sold a pair of 3 years old that girted 6 feet 8 inches. Has been no famine in Aroostook as some have reported, but there was some scarcity in Madawaska among the French population. This was owing to their lumbering late in the spring, they do not get out to take care of their farms in season—has been no want of food in Aroostook. Is 50 miles from Madawaska. Not many apples in Aroostook, as yet; apples have been fruiting there in 7 years from seed, but not much attention is paid to fruit there. Some plums raised there called Canada plum,—has raised as good corn and beans there as ever he did in Kennebec, but does not plant much corn, because he can do better with other crops.

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The advantage combined in this over any other kind that I have seen, in part are,—the hitching strap can be used with the bridle, or halter; readily adapting itself to the various shapes of posts, rails, limbs, staples, rings, hooks, or most any other thing that we may have occasion to fasten to, without danger of being untied by the nestling of the horse, or drawn so tight that it is hard to untie.

The length can be varied, to suit the occasion, by the number of turns used in hitching, or even by putting through a ring or staple, and then snapping the other end into the ring of the head-stall, thus giving both little scope for nestling.

For the Maine Farmer.
BIRDS EARN THEIR OWN LIVING.
Toads—Ingratitude.

A gentleman in this vicinity, in the spring of 1853, purchased some 20 Kentish or Early Richmond cherry trees, perhaps better known as "common red" cherry. On the next morning he made another purchase of about 18 more, also. In conversing with him, I enquired why he selected so many trees of one variety. He made the following noble reply: "I am desirous of tolling the robins to my place, and I design to give them a generous share of the fruit of these trees, for they eat it in destroying great numbers of worms and other enemies to vegetation. I also admire the sweet melody of their song."

I remarked that I highly approved of his course, and that I ardently hoped he would be profited by it, and enjoy their music. By the way, I think this variety of cherry is the most hardy, productive, and reliable of any other, for Maine, and if the fruit is permitted to remain on the trees, say ten days, after most persons pronounce them ripe; they would improve in flavor, become far less acid, and be a decent fruit for the table.

Another and more wealthy individual, had a goodly number of bearing cherry trees of the same variety, in his garden; but when the fruit was ripe, he manifested no generosity to the birds, but a grudging disposition. He was so annoyed when a robin eat a cherry, that he procured a fowling piece and shot every bird that alighted on one of his trees. He was, however, (justly I think,) severely censured for his penuriousness and ingratitude.

Now, can this man possess human feelings? Can he possess the common principle of justice? or in fact, he can be considered as strictly honest? For he depraves the birds of their just due, after they have labored for him for the whole season. I do not see how he can escape from such conclusions.

For he was indebted to them as instruments of the most high for the preservation of his crops. They only required enough to satisfy hunger, but he denies the poor birds even a living. Therefore, the taking of their lives is nothing short of the most cruel injustice. Also, by taking the lives of these birds, he did a serious injury, not only to the interests of himself, but also his immediate neighbors; for they are useful in every garden, and therefore, are public benefactors.

NOW, a word for Toads. Toads destroy great numbers of insects which are injurious to garden crops. Knowing this fact, some individuals provide for them some dark retreats or cells, which they can crawl into and retreats of pleasure. They frequently are much abused, by comparison with any ugly creature.

True, they cannot be considered very handsome; yet, they are perfectly harmless, and are very useful in gardens, by the destruction of multitudes of noxious insects, and deserve better treatment than they frequently receive, even from those whom they benefit.

Respectfully yours,
HENRY LITTLE.
Banger, Feb. 7, 1856.

For the Maine Farmer.
A CONVENIENT HALTER.

"Fast bind, sure find," is an ancient aphorism too true to be called in question in these days of improvement.

Those who use young horses are well aware of the necessity of a secure fastening; and in point of economy and security, I have not seen nor heard of any equal to the one which I use. That others may avail themselves of the same convenience, I will give directions for making one. Have a head-stall, or the head part of what is commonly called a "noose-halter," made from 1 to 1½ inches in width, with a good iron ring to fasten it to; have a hitch strap, of equal size, from 5 to 6 ft. in length, with a good slide or ring, that will easily slide to any required place upon it; have a good strap at each end, and it is complete.

The advantage combined in this over any other kind that I have seen, in part are,—the hitching strap can be used with the bridle, or halter; readily adapting itself to the various shapes of posts, rails, limbs, staples, rings, hooks, or most any other thing that we may have occasion to fasten to, without danger of being untied by the nestling of the horse, or drawn so tight that it is hard to untie.

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O. W. T.

For the Maine Farmer.
MAKING MAPLE SUGAR IN VERMONT.

MR. EDITOR.—The Vermont people do quite a business at making maple sugar, in the month of March and April, which is very lucrative. They have long since abandoned the use of troughs and kettles, and substituted buckets and pans. They tap their trees with an auger, drive a nail into the tree and fasten the bucket to it. By this course they save all the sap, the wind having no chance to blow it away. They make use of what they call pans, to boil the sap in. These pans are made of sheet iron 5 feet square, and 10 inches deep, placed over an arch. One man can make from 75 to 100 lbs. per day. Some farmers in this State, make from 1000 to 1800 lbs., run it into cakes, and send it to New York, and other places to market.

Would not some of the people in Maine do well to follow making sap sugar more, and adopt the Vermont principle? D. BLAKE.

On Crops, &c.—Eph. C. Gates, N. P. Phillips, Me.

For the Maine Farmer.
FRUIT PILFERERS.

MR. EDITOR.—I hope sir that you will call upon the subject this winter of haying; a law passed to protect those in this State, who raise summer, or fall winter fruit, from those who love to take what is not their own. H. D.

NOTE. We believe there is some such law now, which make such nuisances liable to imprisonment. The only trouble is to catch the rascals, as their eyes are generally open when honest men's are shut.

[Ed.]

For the Maine Farmer.
ANDROSCOGGIN AG. & HORT. SOCIETY.

Pursuant to notice, the annual meeting of the Androscoggin Ag. and Hort. Society was held, this day, in Jones Hall, and was called to order by the President.

Listened to report of Trustees, which is as follows:—

In hands of Treasurer, March 1, 1855, \$514 13 Interest to Jan 9, 1856, \$529 83

Have received on assessments and of new members, \$238 00

Have received by avails of Fair, 108 68

" " by sales of cotton cloth, 7 00

Due from State, 300 00

Total, \$1233 51

We have drawn orders and paid out, \$628 69

Leaving in Treasurer's hands, \$624 82

Premises and expenses as follows:—

Order for premiums awarded, \$308 64

Expenses, 329 05

Received of members as follows:

Amount rec'd. Premiums paid.

In Lewiston, \$105 00 \$75 75

Auburn, 62 00 35 25

Greene, 43 00 75 54

Turner, 23 00 46 75

Danville, 17 00 5 25

Webster, 14 00 22 85

Durham, 14 00 6 50

Lisbon, 10 00 3 50

Poland, 6 00 5 50

Wales, 3 00 1 00

Minot, 2 00 1 00

Then is the hour for hearts to warm;

And the soul with love to team;

As wine derives its ripened tint;

From the sun's declining beam.

The cleanly heart-beat, as it gleams

In the large fire's dancing light,

Of the throne of hollowed power

In the chilling winter's night.

Then blessed be the homes of the poor,

Where the heart's affections blend;

When blessed delights, though short and few,

Brief hours of happiness lend.

Blessed be the lips that nightly speak,

In language of love and mirth;

Making their homes a summer realm,

While winter covers the earth.

WINTER.

How blest when the day is spent,
And the night comes forth with stars,
To watch the household fire's red flames
That flicker above the bars;

To their glow on the window pane;
Like the hues that paint the West,
When the rubed sunset wanes.

To feel a comfort in the heart,
And the spirit in the soul,
While we to leaves senseless swing
In the night breeze to and fro!

As snow flakes fall upon the boughs,

And the wind blows keen and cold,

And eyes grow bright as winter tales

Of our earliest days are told.

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THE SNOW.

The snow was proverbially called the "poor farmer's manure," before scientific analysis had shown that it contained a larger percentage of ammonia than rain. The snow serves as a protecting mantle to the tender herbage and roots of all plants against the fierce blasts and cold of winter.

For President, Robert Martin, Danville; Vice Presidents, Samuel Moody, Esq., Lisbon; Jonathan Merrill, Durham; Rec. Soc'y, Wm. R. Wright, Lewiston; Cor. Sec'y, Cor. Sec'y, Lewiston; Collector, Ham Brooks, Lewiston; Agent, L. G. Field, Lewiston; Librarian, C. Record, Danville; Trustee, Aug. Sprague, Greene; Daniel Pierce, Poland; Rufus Prince, Turner; Jas. S. Nash, Auburn; Sam'l Woodly, Webster. All of whom were subsequently elected.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.



AUGUSTA:
THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 21, 1856.

LAND AGENT'S REPORT.

From the report of Hon. Isaac R. Clark, Land Agent, we gather the following items of interest:—

During 1855, the receipts of this office were but \$41,050. Of this amount \$3,462 was balance from previous years; from bills receivable, \$20,454; interest, \$4,102; timber, \$7,564; cash refunded, \$3,954; sales of land, only \$208.

There were 3,374 acres of land sold; 7,782 acres conveyed for labor on roads; and 1,733 acres conveyed in pursuance of reses.

The Report presents a statement of the amount of receipts and sales in this department since 1840, with some interesting deductions and remarks, which we give as follows:—

"The aggregate amount received at the Land Office, in cash and securities, for land sold from 1840 to 1855, inclusive, is \$55,500,290, the sum remaining unpaid of the sales made during that period is \$40,421, with balance of interest. Amount of sales for years 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, was 900,934 acres, for \$49,571 38; the amount remaining unpaid of that sum is \$217,454 82; thus exhibiting the payments made in cash at the date of the purchase and payments made since upon the notes given for the lands to the amount of \$252,126 52. The sum per acre now due upon the purchase for these years is 22 cents, and balance of interest.

It will be observed that the amount of sales made within a period embracing four years was within about one-half of that of the years previous. These lands were sold in the year of greatest prosperity, the securities are matured in years of unusual severity and depression.

From a careful analysis of the operation of the land department for the years named, the comparatively small amount due from prior sales, the large amount paid towards the purchases made within this period of four years, leads to the conclusion at once that the purchasers have not been idle, and that no unnecessary apprehension or uneasiness need be felt in regard to the ultimate payment of every dollar and interest due upon the lands sold, and retained in the Land Office. The growth upon these lands constitutes their value, and strong desire to obtain it had taken possession of the public mind and stimulated extensive operations upon the St. John and Penobscot waters in the years 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833. A large depreciation in the value of lumber has lost the operator in many cases his entire investment. But upon the return of a prosperous business year, and the usual lenity granted by the State, it is fair to assume that not only the best interests of the debtor but those of the State also will be protected.

The extraordinary authority conferred, previous to the legislation of 1853, in the management of the land department, and to an absorption by 5 men of the largest part of the valuable domain of the State, who, in their eagerness to possess the land, "abduced" out a very worthy, though less fortunate class of men, who have sought new fields for the application of that energy so essential to the prosperity of the timber interests of Maine.

This State now owns about two millions of acres of land—all sorts—twelve hundred thousand acres of which were purchased of Massachusetts, for which the State is indebted at about thirty-four cents an acre, a part of which is absorbed with perpetual and limited leases granted to Maine contractors.

The average price per acre of all land acquired by Maine since the "separation" is about sixty cents, embracing the larger part that are valuable as timber lands. It is reasonable to conclude, therefore, that sound policy would dictate that when sales cannot be made at the prices usually obtained for lands of similar value, the lands should be kept under the fostering care of the State.

The policy recommended for the sale of the lands belonging to the State by the Land Agent in his report for the year, 1852, which was enacted into law in 1853, I believe to be safe and convenient, and that the interests of the State will be protected and promoted by its continuance."

Connected with the Report is a table, showing the quantity of land annually conveyed by the State, commencing with the year 1824, with the amount received therefor, and average price, and the amount received for timber, from 1834.

During the 21 years covered by this table, 2,834,507 acres of land were sold, which brought \$1,671,437, an average of almost \$50 per acre.

The sales of timber have amounted to \$611,046. During 1834-35, the sales of land have amounted to 230,146 acres, at an average price of \$144 per acre; in 1834, sales, 147,637 acres—average price, \$108; in 1835, sales, 324,913 acres—average price, \$049; in 1832, sales, 310,802 acres—average price \$047; and in 1833, sales, 316,926 acres—average price, \$049. The highest average price per acre, \$166, was obtained in 1837, when, however, only 3,274 acres were sold. The lowest average price, \$021, was in 1823, when the sales were 123,483 acres.

Speaking of the slow increase of population in this State, the Agent observes:—

"The slow increase of the population of Maine contrasts unfavorably with the rapid progress in the Western States, and as a consequence hinders and slackens that enterprising spirit in the unsettled section of our State, Aroostook county, characteristic of her people; yet, a steady increase of population and wealth is concentrating at different points; and the social advantages of the several communities forming in that country will be enhanced in proportion as facilities are furnished by the agency of good roads."

DRAMATIC EXHIBITION. The Augusta Drigo Club, an association of young gentlemen of this city, propose to give a couple of exhibitions at Winthrop Hall, on Wednesday and Thursday evenings of this week. The plays selected for representation are "Don Caesar de Bazan," and "Bombastic Furioso." The first of these pieces, having never before been produced in this city, will be quite new to the greater part of the audience, and it is hoped will meet their expectations. The Club have been at considerable expense for Scenery, &c., and hope that their efforts to please will meet with a gratifying success. Music, of a very fair quality, will be furnished by the Club, and the songs in the two plays will doubtless be given "con amore," by the Amateur Thespians. Remember the evenings, and "encourage home talents!"

FOREIGN STEAMER DUE. Up to Saturday morning, our latest advice by mail or telegraph, nothing had been heard from the Canada, due at Halifax about Wednesday, and now (Tuesday) in her eighteenth day out. She may, however, have arrived since Saturday.

The Pacific, in her 28th day out, still remains unheard from. Steamers have been despatched to search for her. It is thought she may have been disabled in the ice on the Banks of Newfoundland, large quantities having been seen in that vicinity by the Arabia, which it is supposed took a rather more southerly course than the Pacific.

IRON FRONTS FOR BUILDINGS.

In many places even in the great lumbering State of Maine, suitable material for a durable building is scarce. In such places, where an ornamental front is wanted of durable material, iron will come in very easily. It may be expensive but not so much so as granite hammered, with ornamental designs wrought in it.

The Inventor, a new monthly devoted to mechanical improvements and new inventions, in the number for this month, has an engraving of an improved mode of putting up fronts of cast iron, invented and patented by Mr. Hoyt. The editor says that fronts as handsome as any in the country, can be put up for one-fourth the cost of brown freestone, and so accurate in resemblance as to deceive a practiced eye, and warranted to return their color for years.

What makes this improvement still better, it can be put upon the front of an old building without disturbing the walls in the least, with as much ease, and will be as strong and substantial as upon a new wall. No matter how rough and old the wall may be, it will be strengthened so as to be solid as a new one. The iron facing and the wall are so firmly united together as to form them into one solid mass, so that dampness and air are perfectly excluded from between them, and consequently, the iron cannot oxidize or decay.

Any amount of ornamental work can be put upon it without increasing its cost. The plates being of cast iron, ornamental ones can be moulded nearly or quite as quick and easily as plain ones. It can also be put upon a wood or frame front, and thus make it fire and weather proof.

Many other advantages are mentioned which appear obvious. We think any one wishing for a front as durable but cheaper than stone will use the cast iron.

ANOTHER STORM. On Sunday last, commencing early in the morning and continuing through the day and part of the night, we were visited by one of the most severe snow storms of the season. The amount of snow was not more than eight or ten inches, but the high wind which prevailed, drifted it very badly, entirely cutting off all communication by stage or railroad. Up to the time of writing, Tuesday forenoon, there have been no cars in from Portland. The track of the Somersett and Kennebec Railroad, between here and Kendall's Mills, was promptly cleared, so that the noon train came through, but little more than half an hour behind time. The road from here to Portland must have been much more drifted, as the road is not yet open.

We are unable to state whether the other railroads in the State were obstructed or not, but think they must have been.

FAIRS AND LEVEES. By some unaccountable oversight, we omitted to notice in our last paper the Fair and Levee of the Ladies of the Congregational and Universal Societies. The tide was fairly jammed—the fancy articles sold exceedingly—and the ice cream, oysters, coffee (grand), and other refreshments, vanished before the hungry multitude, like (to use a rather trite simile) dew before the sun. The whole affair was decidedly successful.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

EXTRAORDINARY SNOW STORM AT OSWEGO, N. Y.

The Utica (N. Y.) Observer of Saturday, the 9th inst., gives the following account of a remarkable snow storm, which occurred at Oswego:

"We received by mail this morning the Oswego Palladium of Thursday, which contains accounts of the greatest snow storm ever known in that locality—the 'oldest inhabitant' does not remember to have experienced anything approximating to it in severity, duration, or in the quantity of snow that fell."

The snow commenced on Friday, the blowing a gale from the north, and the snow falling rapidly. By Saturday morning, a large body of new snow had fallen, and great drifts had formed, so that the cars on the Oswego and Syracuse railroad were only able to get about a mile out of the city, after a whole day's struggle. Travel on the railroad was entirely suspended. So was business in the city—window shutters of the stores remained up.

The falling of the snow and the howling of the wind continued with unabated fury for four days, and during that time the snow, which was not a violet, was three feet deep. Even the papers—the Palladium and the Times and Journal—were not published for two or three days. The Palladium was issued for the last time previous to Thursday, on Monday morning, but the carriers were unable to distribute it to more than fifty subscribers, who resided near the office, and the mail could not carry off the edition to distant subscribers.

Finally, on Tuesday night, the dismal wind subsided and the avalanche of snow ceased to descend. Wednesday morning came out bright and clear. The Palladium thus describes the scene then presented:

"Our city yielded winter scenes of the Arctic regions; such a storm could only be equalled there. The streets in many parts of the city were impassable, the snow ranging from four to ten and twenty feet in depth, and in some places the drifts are thirty feet deep. Many of the residences were banked up with snow to the second story. Water street is totally impassable. The river is almost entirely closed up to the lower bridge, an extraordinary occurrence, and wild ducks took refuge in the little open water near the bridge during the storm, from the racing elements of the snow. The houses in the interior are completely impeded, and it is impossible to say how soon we shall get a communication with the country. The snow now lies to a depth of six feet to eight feet in the woods. Efforts were commenced in good earnest yesterday morning, to clear the railroad track and get through to Syracuse."

We cannot commence giving an adequate description of this unparalleled, tremendous storm. The cars from Oswego were enabled to reach Syracuse on Friday evening, thus putting Oswego in communication with the outer world, after a week's isolation.

THE DEFENCES OF NEW YORK HARBOR. The Washington correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce says—

"The condition of the fortifications of the harbor, and the Navy Yard at New York, has been the subject of much remark of late. They are utterly inadequate for the purpose of defending the port, city, and Navy Yard, against the attack of such ships and armaments as are now in existence."

A distinguished and scientific officer of the United States Navy, remarked to Senators the other day, that he would select two ships from the British Navy, with which he would undertake with perfect safety, to lay New York city under contribution, or shell and burn it. This officer knows the channel perfectly well, and knows every gun that is or can be mounted upon the forts upon which we rely for the defence of the place. The guns of this place are not of sufficient calibre and ready to do any harm to the class of ships which are now built by Great Britain."

A resolution of inquiry upon the subject has been adopted in the Senate.

THE FACTS OF WAR. The Albany Evening Journal publishes a list of the battles fought during the year 1855, with the number of people killed at each, beginning with the bombardment of Shanghai by the French, at which one hundred fell, and ending with the fall of Kars, at which 2,600 fell; by which list it appears that seventy-three battles have occurred during the year, or more than loss of over one thousand men killed in each. This list does not include those who have fallen by disease, or in skirmishes, nor the wounded, disabled, those who died in the hospital or the ambulance, or were irreparably maimed, or missing, or prisoners. The number left dead upon the field usually comprises only about one-fourth of the entire loss in a battle. By this rule, the entire number swept out of existence by the wars of 1855 must have reached over 300,000 men. No year has presented so bloody a record, since Waterloo.

TURKEY. An interesting statement of the financial condition of the Turkish empire has been published by the Paris Moniteur. It appears that the Turkish army consists of 103,000 men, after deducting 22,500, forming a contingent maintained by the British Government, and that the cost of this effective force for one year amounts to \$2,320,000. The corps of Redifs actually under arms (after deducting 77,41 forming the British contingent) amounts to 95,000, and as regards pay and rations they have been placed on the same scale as the regular troops.

THURSDAY, Feb. 14.

THE case of Sturgis, Bennett & Co., the Court of Claims has rendered a decision, in which the following principles are settled:

"That the United States cannot collect duties on constructive importations of foreign merchandise. The court held that duties may be legally taken only on merchandise that actually arrives in the country, and not on merchandise that appears by the bill of lading to have been imported. The court established the principle that in the case of imports of unconsolidated or estimated duties, there is an implied instruction on the part of the Government to refund the same to the importer. The decision is important, because there are numerous other cases pending in the Court of Claims involving the same principles."

ICE HEAVINGS. The Salmon Register remarks—

"The accumulations of ice in the docks, in connection with a very high course of tides, illustrates, on a small scale, to be sure, some of the powerful operations in the Arctic regions. Some of the buildings over the water, in different localities, have been raised six, eight, and ten feet, by the power of the ice."

Mr. Cochran, from the Committee on Manufactures, reported a bill to incorporate the Maine Gold Mining Company, and to amend the laws relating to the same.

Mr. Foster, of East Machias, offered an order instructing the Committee on Banks and Banking to inquire into the expediency of investigating the condition of certain banks. Lest, after debate, the members reported by the committee on constitutional amendments were read once and to-morrow.

Act to incorporate the North Marine Wharf and Railway was amended and passed to be engrossed.

Petition presented and referred.—Petition of Joshua Gray et al., for a law authorizing the Kennebec Log Driving Company to raft logs from their boom, was presented and referred.

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Act to incorporate the Kennebec Agricultural Society, to revise the charter of the Newichawankon and North American Railway Company, to incorporate South Kennebec Agricultural Society; to incorporate North Kennebec Agricultural Society; to incorporate North Marine Wharf and Railway Co.

Petition presented and referred.—Briggs Turner et al., that the town of Whitefield be set off from Lincoln County to Kennebec County; Reuben Lewis et al., for the same; J. D. Donnell et al., for the same.

MONDAY, Feb. 18.

SENATE. Mr. Farley moved to reconsider the vote passing the order in relation to the investigation of the condition of certain banks. Lest, after debate, the members reported by the committee on constitutional amendments were read once and to-morrow.

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Petition presented and referred.—Petition of John H. Foster, of East Machias, to the effect that the Committee on Banks and Banking to inquire into the expediency of investigating the condition of certain banks. Lest, after debate, the members reported by the committee on constitutional amendments were read once and to-morrow.

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The Muse.

From the National Era.
MARY GARVIN.
BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.

From the heart of Waumbek Methna, from the lake that never fails,
Falls the Saco in the green lap of Conway's inter-valles;
There in wild and virgin freshness, its waters foam and flow,
As when Field first saw them, two hundred years ago.

But, saved in all its seaward course with bridges, dunes and mills,
How changed is Saco's stream, how lost its freedom
of the hills, since traveled Jocelyn, factor Vines, and stately Champernowne.
Heard on its banks the gray wolf's howl, the trumpet of the loon!

With smacking axe hot with speed, with steeds of fire and steam,
Wide-waded To-day leaves Yesterday behind him like a dream.

Still, from the hurrying train of Life, fly backward far and fast.

The milestones of the fathers, the landmarks of the past.

But human hearts remain unchanged; the sorrow and the sin,
The loves and hopes and fears of old are to our own akin;

And, in the tales our fathers told, the songs our mothers sung,

Tradition, snowy-bearded, leans on Romance ever young.

O, sharp-lined man of traffic, on Saco's banks to-day;
O, mill-girl watching late and long the shuttle's restless play!

Let for the once, a listening ear the working hand begin,

And lead his old Provincial tale, as suits, a tear or smile!

The evening gun had sounded from gray Fort Mary's walls,

Through the forest, like a wild beast, roared and plunged the Saco's falls.

And westward on the sea-wind, that damp and gusty blow,
Over cedar-darckening inland the smoke of Spruinkewfew.

On the hearth of Farmer Garvin blazed the crackling walnut log;

Right and left sat dame and goodman, and between them lay the dog.

Head o' pens, tail slow wagging, and beside him on her mat,
Sitting drowsy in the firelight, winked and purred the mottled cat.

"Twenty years!" said Goodman Garvin, speaking sadly, under breath,
And his gray head lowly shaking, as one who speaks of death.

The Goodwife dropped her needles: "It is twenty years, to-day,
Since the Indians fell on Saco, and stole our child away."

They sank into the silence, for each knew the other's thought,
Of a great and common sorrow, and words were needed not.

"Who knocks?" cried Goodman Garvin. The door was open;—
On two strangers, man and woman, cloaked and fur-ed, the freight shone.

One with courteous gesture lifted the bear-skin from his head;

"Lives here Elkanah Garvin?" "I am he," the Goodman said.

"Sit ye down, and dry and warm ye, for the night is chill with rain,"

And the Goodwife drew the settle, and stirred the fire-mazan.

The maid unlaced her cloak-hood, the freighth glistened, large, moist eyes, and over soft folds of dark brown hair.

Dame Garvin looked upon her: "It is Mary's self I see!"

Dear heart!" she cried, "now tell me, has my child come back to me?"

"My name indeed is Mary," said the stranger, sobbing wild;

"Will you be to me a mother? I am Mary Garvin's child!"

"She sleeps by wooded Simeon, but on her dying day She bade my father take me to his kinfolk there."

"And when the priest brought her to do me no such wrong,
She said, 'May God forgive me! I have closed my heart too long.'

"When I hid me from my father, and shut out my mother's call,

I sinned against those dear ones and the Father of us all."

"Christ's love rebukes no home-love, breaks no tie of kin apart;

Better heresy in doctrine than heresy of heart.

"Tell me not the Church must censure: she who wept the Cross beside,

Never made her own flesh strangers, nor the claims of blood denied."

"And if she who wronged her parents, with her child atoms to them,

Earthly daughter, Heavenly Mother! thou at least wilt not condemn!"

"So, upon her death-bed lying, my blessed mother spoke;

As we come to do her bidding, so receive us for her sake."

"God be praised!" said Goodwife Garvin, "We thanketh He gives;

He wounds, but His health; in her child our daughter lives."

"Amen!" the old man answered, as he brushed a tear away,

And, kneeling by his heart-stone, said, with reverence, "Let us pray."

All its Oriental symbols, and its Hebrew paraphrase, Warn with earnest life and feeling, rose his prayer of love and praise.

But he started at beholding, as he rose from off his knee,

The strange cross his forehead with the sign of Palestine.

"What is this?" cried Farmer Garvin. "Is an English Christian's home?"

A chapel or a mass-house, that you make the sign of Rome?"

Then the young girl knelt beside him, kissed his trembling hand, and cried:

"O, forbear to shide my father; in that faith my mother died!"

"On her wooden cross at Simeon the dew drops fall;

As they fall on Spurwink's grave-yard; and the dear God watches all!"

The old man stroked the fair head that rested on his knee;

"I am very grateful, sir, I'm sure," said she;

"but we don't like to take charity, though we need help; but we can get along now, sir—for I suppose I must keep it up, as you say you didn't send it, and use it, for the children's sake, and thank God for his good mercy—since I don't know, and never shall, where it came from."

"Mrs. Miller," he said quickly, "you spoke in this way before; and I don't know what you refer to. What do you mean by 'it'?"

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

The Muse.

From the National Era.
MARY GARVIN.

BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.

From the heart of Waumbek Methna, from the lake that never fails,
Falls the Saco in the green lap of Conway's inter-valles;
There in wild and virgin freshness, its waters foam and flow,
As when Field first saw them, two hundred years ago.

But, saved in all its seaward course with bridges, dunes and mills,
How changed is Saco's stream, how lost its freedom
of the hills, since traveled Jocelyn, factor Vines, and stately Champernowne.

Heard on its banks the gray wolf's howl, the trumpet of the loon!

With smacking axe hot with speed, with steeds of fire and steam,
Wide-waded To-day leaves Yesterday behind him like a dream.

Still, from the hurrying train of Life, fly backward far and fast.

The milestones of the fathers, the landmarks of the past.

But human hearts remain unchanged; the sorrow and the sin,
The loves and hopes and fears of old are to our own akin;

And, in the tales our fathers told, the songs our mothers sung,

Tradition, snowy-bearded, leans on Romance ever young.

O, sharp-lined man of traffic, on Saco's banks to-day;
O, mill-girl watching late and long the shuttle's restless play!

Let for the once, a listening ear the working hand begin,

And lead his old Provincial tale, as suits, a tear or smile!

The evening gun had sounded from gray Fort Mary's walls,

Through the forest, like a wild beast, roared and plunged the Saco's falls.

And westward on the sea-wind, that damp and gusty blow,
Over cedar-darckening inland the smoke of Spruinkewfew.

On the hearth of Farmer Garvin blazed the crackling walnut log;

Right and left sat dame and goodman, and between them lay the dog.

Head o' pens, tail slow wagging, and beside him on her mat,
Sitting drowsy in the firelight, winked and purred the mottled cat.

"Twenty years!" said Goodman Garvin, speaking sadly, under breath,
And his gray head lowly shaking, as one who speaks of death.

The Goodwife dropped her needles: "It is twenty years, to-day,
Since the Indians fell on Saco, and stole our child away."

They sank into the silence, for each knew the other's thought,
Of a great and common sorrow, and words were needed not.

"Who knocks?" cried Goodman Garvin. The door was open;—
On two strangers, man and woman, cloaked and fur-ed, the freight shone.

One with courteous gesture lifted the bear-skin from his head;

"Lives here Elkanah Garvin?" "I am he," the Goodman said.

"Sit ye down, and dry and warm ye, for the night is chill with rain,"

And the Goodwife drew the settle, and stirred the fire-mazan.

The maid unlaced her cloak-hood, the freighth glistened, large, moist eyes, and over soft folds of dark brown hair.

Dame Garvin looked upon her: "It is Mary's self I see!"

Dear heart!" she cried, "now tell me, has my child come back to me?"

"My name indeed is Mary," said the stranger, sobbing wild;

"Will you be to me a mother? I am Mary Garvin's child!"

"She sleeps by wooded Simeon, but on her dying day She bade my father take me to his kinfolk there."

"And when the priest brought her to do me no such wrong,
She said, 'May God forgive me! I have closed my heart too long.'

"When I hid me from my father, and shut out my mother's call,

I sinned against those dear ones and the Father of us all."

"Christ's love rebukes no home-love, breaks no tie of kin apart;

Better heresy in doctrine than heresy of heart.

"Tell me not the Church must censure: she who wept the Cross beside,

Never made her own flesh strangers, nor the claims of blood denied."

"And if she who wronged her parents, with her child atoms to them,

Earthly daughter, Heavenly Mother! thou at least wilt not condemn!"

"So, upon her death-bed lying, my blessed mother spoke;

As we come to do her bidding, so receive us for her sake."

"God be praised!" said Goodwife Garvin, "We thanketh He gives;

He wounds, but His health; in her child our daughter lives."

"Amen!" the old man answered, as he brushed a tear away,

And, kneeling by his heart-stone, said, with reverence, "Let us pray."

All its Oriental symbols, and its Hebrew paraphrase, Warn with earnest life and feeling, rose his prayer of love and praise.

But he started at beholding, as he rose from off his knee,

The strange cross his forehead with the sign of Palestine.

"What is this?" cried Farmer Garvin. "Is an English Christian's home?"

A chapel or a mass-house, that you make the sign of Rome?"

Then the young girl knelt beside him, kissed his trembling hand, and cried:

"O, forbear to shide my father; in that faith my mother died!"

"On her wooden cross at Simeon the dew drops fall;

As they fall on Spurwink's grave-yard; and the dear God watches all!"

The old man stroked the fair head that rested on his knee;

"I am very grateful, sir, I'm sure," said she;

"but we don't like to take charity, though we need help; but we can get along now, sir—for I suppose I must keep it up, as you say you didn't send it, and use it, for the children's sake, and thank God for his good mercy—since I don't know, and never shall, where it came from."

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